

## Serving Children and Families

V. SUSAN ALFORD STATE DIRECTOR

NIKKI R. HALEY GOVERNOR

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley Governor of South Carolina State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Members of the General Assembly State House, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 1205 Pendleton Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley and Members of the General Assembly:

Enclosed you will find the South Carolina Department of Social Services' report pursuant to S.C. Code Section 43-1-210. This statute essentially requires the reporting of eight items, each outlined below with a reference to the tab where the pertinent information is located.

1. **Requirement:** A full and detailed report of the Department's annual activities and expenditures, including a statement of its personnel and the salaries paid.

Attachment A contains the Department's Accountability Report which contains detailed activities and expenditures. Attachment B contains a statement of personnel expenses.

2. **Requirement:** A report with such recommendations and suggestions the Department deems advisable.

Attachment C contains the 2015-2016 Department Budget Plan, and Attachment D contains the Department's Proviso Revision Request. Please note that, as a new director effective February 12, 2015, I am currently reviewing the 2015-16 budget plan prior to submission to the SC Senate Finance Committee on March 25, 2015. This may/may not result in modifications.

3. **Requirement:** The monthly number of cases assigned as of the last business day of every month, to each case worker in the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services Division.

Attachment E contains a report, by month, of the total number of cases, including cases outside of the Child Protective Services Division, assigned to each case worker in Child Protective Services. Data notes are provided on the first three pages of the attachment.

4. **Requirement:** The monthly total number of children assigned, as of the last business day of every month, to each case worker in the Department of Social Services Child Protective Services Division.

Attachment E contains a report, by month, of the total number of children assigned to each case worker in Child Protective Services as documented in the Child and Adult Protective Services System (CAPSS).

5. **Requirement:** The monthly total number of children seen by the Department of Social Services within twenty-four hours of a report of abuse or neglect that were accepted for intake.

Attachment F contains a table that shows the monthly total number of children documented in the case records system to have been seen by the Agency within twenty-four hours of a report of abuse or neglect that was accepted for intake.

6. **Requirement:** The monthly total number of children that were not seen by the Department of Social Services within twenty-four hours of a report of abuse or neglect.

Attachment F contains a table that shows the monthly total number of children documented in the case records system to have not been seen by the Agency within twenty-four hours of a report of abuse or neglect that were accepted for intake. S.C. Code Section 63-7-920 which governs investigations and case determinations does not require a face-to-face within twenty-four hours. Instead, it requires the Department to "begin an appropriate and thorough investigation" within twenty-four hours of the receipt of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. Although it's not a requirement, the Department's policy mandates diligent efforts must be made to see every child within twenty-four hours of the acceptance of a report.

7. **Requirement:** The total number of children in foster care that were seen by the Department of Social Services each month.

Attachment G contains a table that shows the total number of children in foster care that were documented to have been seen by the Agency each month.

8. **Requirement:** The total number of children in foster care that were not seen by the Department of Social Services each month.

Attachment G contains a table that shows the total number of children in foster care that were not documented to have been seen by the Agency each month.

S.C. Code Section 43-1-210 was recently amended to require the reporting of many of these items for the first time. We have included items that we think are most responsive to the statute; however, should you need additional information, I am happy to provide further information. I look forward to any feedback you may have.

Sincerely,

V. Susan Alford
State Director

Enclosures